

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 CCO-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /074 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9939

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

CINCNAVEUR LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 12586

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, KE

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S DEATH

1. CALM CONTINUES TO PREVAIL THROUGHOUT KENYA AND
CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK RESPECTED AS VICE PRESIDENT MOI SWORN
IN AFTERNOON AUGUST 22 AS PRESIDENT AFTER CABINET MEETING.
ACCORDING CONSTITUTION, ELECTION OF PRESIDENT WILL BE HELD
WITHIN PERIOD OF 90 DAYS STARTING FROM AUGUST 22. IN STATEMENT
YESTERDAY, ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARLES NJONJO SAID "PRESIDENT
WOULD BE ELECTED STRICTLY ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTION."

2. AFTER SWEARING IN AS PRESIDENT, MOI MADE STATEMENT
APPEALING TO CITIZENS TO REMAIN CALM AND CARRY ON GOOD WORK
OF MZEE JOMO KENYATTA. UNDERSTAND THAT MILITARY AND POLICE
UNITS WENT INTO ALERT STATUS AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE BUT THERE
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NO RPT NO OUTWARD EVIDENCE OF THIS.

3. THIRTY-DAY PERIOD OF MOURNING DECLARED BUT PEOPLE URGED
TO GO ON WITH WORK AND BUSINESS AS USUAL. NO DATE ANNOUNCED FOR
STATE FUNERAL BUT WE HAVE ON GOOD AUTHORITY IT WILL TAKE PLACE
AUGUST 31. PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT ARE TO REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL
AFTER FUNERAL.

4. MEDIA PAYING GLOWING TRIBUTE TO KENYATTA REPEATING HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS LIFE AND REBROADCASTING MAJOR SPEECHES. PROMINENT COVERAGE GIVEN TO TRIBUTES FROM LOCAL GROUPS AND FROM STATESMEN AROUND THE WORLD INCLUDING STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CARTER AUGUST 22.

5. CONDOLENCE MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED.

6. COMMENT: AFTER OBVIOUS SHOCK AT ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEATH OF PRESIDENT KENYATTA AT 12:50 P.M. AUGUST 22 LIFE HAS RETURNED TO REGULAR WORK DAY PACE AND CALM REPORTED THROUGHOUT KENYA. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT STRAINS WILL APPEAR AS KANU STARTS PROCESS OF NOMINATING NEXT PRESIDENT. FACT THAT KENYATTA DIED SUDDENLY WITH ONLY MAXA NGINA AND COAST PROVINCE PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER MAHIHU REPORTEDLY PRESENT, MAY HAVE CAUSED SMOOTH IMMEDIATE REACTION TO ANNOUNCED PASSING OF PRESIDENT BY ELIMINATING MANEUVERINGS WHICH WOULD HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY OCCURRED BY COMPETING FACTIONS HAD DEATH BEEN LINGERING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, POLITICAL STABILITY, DEATHS, STATE FUNERALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAIROB12586
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780344-0835
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780833/aaaabbgh.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 56c9305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1648839
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S DEATH
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, KE, (KENYATTA, JOMO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/56c9305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014